

CLAIMS

1. A receiving apparatus which can switch and receive a television broadcast and stream data, comprising:

5 reproducing means for reproducing the received stream data;

switching means for switching an input between an input from said reproducing means and another input; and

10 communicating means for communicating with a transmitting source of said stream data,

wherein in the case where said input is switched from the input from said reproducing means to said another input by said switching means during the reproduction of said stream data by said reproducing means, a stop request to stop transmission of said stream data is transmitted to the transmitting source of said stream data by said communicating means, and

15 in the case where said input is switched again from said another input to an output from said reproducing means by said switching means, a start request to start the reproduction of said stream data from a position where the transmission of said stream data has been stopped is transmitted to said transmitting source of said stream data by said communicating means.

25 2. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

position information obtaining means for

obtaining position information showing a position on said stream data which is reproduced by said reproducing means at a point of time when said input has been switched from the input from said reproducing means to said another input by said switching means, and

wherein after said input had been switched from the input from said reproducing means to said another input by said switching means during the reproduction of said stream data by said reproducing means, in the case where said input was switched again from said another input to the input from said reproducing means by said switching means, said start request to start the reproduction of said stream data from the position based on said position information obtained by said position information obtaining means is transmitted to said transmitting source of said stream data by said communicating means.

3. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the reception of the stream data and the transmission of said stop request or said start request are executed by different communicating means.

4. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

in the case of transmitting said start request, an address of said receiving apparatus is transmitted together with said start request.

5. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein

in the case of transmitting said start request,
information of said transmitting source is transmitted
together with said start request.

5 6. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein

in the case of transmitting said start request,
information showing the stream data is transmitted together
with said start request.

10 7. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
further comprising

history storing means for storing information of
said transmitting source of said stream data reproduced by
said reproducing means as a history, and

15 wherein if the input is switched by said switching
means during the reproduction of said stream data by said
reproducing means, said transmitting source is selected from
said history storing means in accordance with the switching
of said input by said switching means and said start request
20 is transmitted to said selected transmitting source by said
communicating means.

8. A receiving apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein

25 a URL of said transmitting source has been stored
in said history.

9. A receiving apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein

URLs of the streams stored in said transmitting source have been stored in said history, respectively.

10. A station selecting method which can switch and receive a television broadcast and stream data, comprising the steps of:

reproducing the received stream data;

switching an input between an input from said reproducing step and another input; and

communicating with a transmitting source of said stream data,

wherein in the case where said input is switched from the input from said reproducing step to said another input by said switching step during the reproduction of said stream data by said reproducing step, a stop request to stop transmission of said stream data is transmitted to the transmitting source of said stream data by said communicating step, and

in the case where said input is switched again from said another input to an output from said reproducing step by said switching step, a start request to start the reproduction of said stream data from a position where the transmission of said stream data has been stopped is transmitted to said transmitting source of said stream data by said communicating step.

11. A stream distribution system for distributing stream data to a receiving apparatus which can switch and receive a television broadcast and the stream data,

comprising:

a stream data server for reproducing and transmitting the stream data; and

the receiving apparatus having reproducing means
5 for receiving said stream data transmitted from said stream data server and reproducing said received stream data, switching means for switching an input between an input from said reproducing means and another input, and communicating means for communicating with said stream data server,

10 wherein in the case where said input is switched from the input from said reproducing means to said another input by said switching means during the reproduction of said stream data by said reproducing means, said receiving apparatus transmits a stop request to stop the transmission
15 of said stream data to said stream data server by said communicating means,

said stream data server stops the transmission of said stream data by said stream data server in accordance with said stop request,

20 in the case where said input is switched again from said another input to the input from said reproducing means by said switching means, said receiving apparatus transmits a start request to start the reproduction of said stream data from a position where the transmission of said
25 stream data has been stopped to said stream data server by said communicating means, and

said stream data server reproduces said stream

data from the position where the transmission of said stream data has been stopped and transmits said stream data to said receiving apparatus in accordance with said start request.

12. A stream distribution system according to claim 11, wherein

the reception of the stream data from said stream data server and the transmission of said stop request or said start request to said stream data server are executed by different communicating means.

13. A stream distribution system according to claim 11, wherein

in the case of transmitting said start request, an address of said receiving apparatus is transmitted together with said start request.

14. A stream distribution system according to claim 11, wherein

in the case of transmitting said start request, information showing said stream data server is transmitted together with said start request.

15. A stream distribution system according to claim 11, wherein

in the case of transmitting said start request, information showing the stream data is transmitted together with said start request.

16. A stream distribution system according to claim 11, wherein

said receiving apparatus further comprises

position information obtaining means for obtaining position information showing a position on said stream data which is reproduced by said reproducing means at a point of time when said input has been switched from the input from said reproducing means to said another input by said switching means, and after said input had been switched from the input from said reproducing means to said another input by said switching means during the reproduction of said stream data by said reproducing means, in the case where said input was switched again from said another input to the input from said reproducing means by said switching means, said start request to start the reproduction of said stream data from the position based on said position information obtained by said position information obtaining means is transmitted to said stream data server by said communicating means.

17. A stream distribution system according to claim 11, wherein

said receiving apparatus further comprises history storing means for storing information, as a history, of said stream data server which transmitted said stream data reproduced by said reproducing means, and

if the input is switched by said switching means during the reproduction of said stream data by said reproducing means, said stream data server is selected from said history storing means in accordance with the switching of said input by said switching means and said start request is transmitted to said selected stream data server by said

communicating means.

18. A stream distribution system according to claim

17, wherein

a URL of said transmitting source has been stored
5 in said history.

19. A stream distribution system according to claim

17, wherein

URLs of the streams stored in said transmitting
source have been stored in said history, respectively.

10